Council

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Agenda item 14
Budget of the International Seabed Authority

Decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority relating to the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2019-2020

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Taking into account the recommendations contained in the report of the Finance Committee of the International Seabed Authority,[1]

1. *Recommends* that the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority approve the budget of the Authority for the financial period 2019–2020, in the amount of $18,235,850, as proposed by the Secretary-General;

2. *Also recommends* that the Assembly adopt the following draft decision:

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority,

1. *Approves* the budget for the financial period 2019–2020, in the amount of $18,235,850, as proposed by the Secretary-General;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the significant reduction in the costs of conference services and the transfer of the resources made available by those savings to the programmes of the Authority;

3. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to establish the scale of assessments for each of the years 2019 and 2020 on the basis of the scale used for the regular budget of the United Nations for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018, taking into account that the ceiling assessment rate will be 22 per cent and the floor rate 0.01 per cent;

4. *Also authorizes* the Secretary-General, for 2019 and 2020, to transfer between sections, subsections and programmes up to 20 per cent of the amount in each section, subsection or programme;

[1] ISBA/24/A/6–ISBA/24/C/19.

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5. *Urges* the members of the Authority to pay their assessed contributions to the budget on time and in full;

6. *Notes with concern* the increasing amounts of outstanding contributions, appeals once more to the members of the Authority to pay contributions to the budget of the Authority outstanding from previous years as soon as possible, and requests the Secretary-General, at his discretion, to continue his efforts to recover those amounts;

7. *Urges* members and other potential donors to make voluntary contributions to the Endowment Fund for Marine Scientific Research in the Area and the existing voluntary trust funds of the Authority;

8. *Decides* to increase the annual overhead charge referred to in section 10.5 of the standard clauses for exploration contracts from $47,000 to $60,000, effective 1 January 2019;

9. *Also decides*, as an interim solution and on a voluntary basis, to add an additional contribution of $6,000 to the annual overhead charge invoice to the contractors on an opt-out basis. Contributions will be allocated as a contribution to the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of members of the Legal and Technical Commission and of the Finance Committee from developing countries in meetings of the Commission and of the Committee;

10. *Further decides* to revisit the possibility of using remote interpretation services for meetings of the Assembly and the Council if outstanding technical issues, including the quality of interpretation, can be resolved;

11. *Adopts* the terms of reference for the voluntary trust fund to support the participation of members of the Council from developing States in meetings of the Council, as contained in the annex to the present decision.

244th meeting
20 July 2018

Annex

Terms of reference for the voluntary trust fund to support the participation of members of the Council of the International Seabed Authority from developing States in meetings of the Council

1. Pursuant to the financial regulations of the International Seabed Authority, a voluntary trust fund has been established to support the participation of members of the Council of the Authority from developing States.

I. Object and purpose of the trust fund

2. In its decision ISBA/23/A/13 dated 18 August 2017 relating to the final report on the first periodic review of the international regime of the Area pursuant to article 154 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary trust fund to support the participation of members of the Council from developing States in the second annual meeting of the Council.

3. The objective of the fund is to defray the cost of participation of members of the Council from developing States in one of the two parts of the annual session of the Council scheduled for 2018 and 2019, respectively, during the time where there are two meetings of the Council per year.

II. Establishment

4. The fund is established pursuant to financial regulation 5.5 and shall be administered in accordance with the financial regulations of the Authority, as provided in financial regulation 5.6.

III. Contributions to the fund

5. Member States, observers and other stakeholders are encouraged to contribute financially to the voluntary trust fund. Other stakeholders may include, but are not limited to: other States; contractors with the Authority; relevant international organizations; academic, scientific and technical institutions; philanthropic organizations; corporations and private individuals; and non-governmental organizations.

IV. Implementing office

6. The Office for Administrative Service of the Secretariat is the implementing office for the fund and provides the services for its operation.

V. Report on the status of the fund

7. The Secretary-General shall report annually to the Finance Committee for its review of the use and status of the fund. The Secretary-General shall also report annually to the Assembly on the status of the fund.

VI. Terms of reference for the administration of the fund

8. The use of the fund is subject to the following conditions:

(a) A formal request by the Government of the State, containing the name of the delegate to be supported, must be communicated to the Secretariat preferably three months but no later than one month prior to the opening of the respective meeting of the Council. Late requests shall not be considered;

(b) Only members of the Council from developing States are eligible for support from the fund. However, in the event that the amount available in the fund is not sufficient to meet all requests for support, priority shall be given to members of the Council from least developed countries. A list of eligible States based on the composition of the Council for 2018 is attached in the enclosure to the present terms of reference, subject to revision following each election of the members of the Council;

(c) The fund shall be used to support the participation of one member of the delegation of an eligible developing State member of the Council in only one of the two meetings of the Council per year, as normally scheduled in February/March and July/August;

(d) For each member of the Council, only one delegate may benefit from support from the fund;

(e) Support shall be limited to economy class airfare by the most economical and direct route from either the capital or the official place of posting and to a daily subsistence allowance for up to a maximum of seven days;

(f) The Secretary-General should inform the Government concerned of the outcome of the request in a timely manner.

9. Unless the Assembly of the Authority decides otherwise, any funds remaining by the end of the year 2019 will be transferred to the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of members of the Legal and Technical Commission and of the Finance Committee from developing countries in meetings of the Commission and of the Committee, and the fund will be closed.

Enclosure

Developing States members of the Council in 2018

Algeria	China	Jamaica	Singapore
Argentina	Côte d'Ivoire	Lesotho	South Africa
Bangladesh	Fiji	Mexico	Trinidad and Tobago
Brazil	Ghana	Morocco	Tonga
Cameroon	India	Nigeria	Uganda
Chile	Indonesia	Panama	

Least developed countries members of the Council in 2018

Bangladesh	Lesotho	Uganda